

**Queer Sarajevo Festival
Organization Q
Sarajevo, BiH**

<http://www.queer.ba/qsf-en.htm>
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NARRATIVE REPORT

The First Queer Sarajevo Festival (QSF) was organized by Organization Q with the aim to present 'life stories' of LGBTIQ persons – their daily lives, loves, relationships, friendships, families, activism, fears, and all other 'life matters' and questions with which LGBTIQ persons are confronted. In order to include queer theory, art and culture into Sarajevo cultural mainstream scene, Festival's organizational team has prepared five day program, including exhibitions, films (documentary and featured), round tables, and performances.

Imagined as safe and free space, based on the principles of freedom, non-violence, self-definition and self-identification, Festival was publicly opened on 24th of September at the Gallery of the Academy of Fine Arts in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Festival was opened with three art exhibitions. Although protests against QSF were evident before its scheduled date, physical violence against the QSF, guests and organizers ensued at the opening ceremony. Violence was orchestrated and caused by several individuals and organized groups around the Academy as well as kilometers away. Eight people were injured during that night, while the organizational team became a target of hate speech and threats received constantly month before and after the opening of the Festival.

Due to violence that occurred on the night of 24th of September, the organizing team decided to organized a Press Conference on the following day and continue in a non-public capacity. Activities of the QSF were finally cancelled in the evening of September 26th. Although the program of QSF was not implemented, the Festival itself was never officially closed, turning itself into political struggle against violence, nationalism and fundamentalism in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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INTRODUCTION

The idea about organizing the Queer Festival was initiated in the Strategic plan of Organization Q in 2006, while its actual realization began in September 2007 in cooperation with local NGO Sarajevo Open Center (SOC). At that point, the organizational team included six persons – four members of Organization Q and two members of Sarajevo Open Center. In this capacity, organizational team worked on the development of monthly film screenings and discussions (April-June 2008); Queer Theory in ex-YU region: Collection of works; and Queer Sarajevo Festival by developing its program.

In March 2008, two organizations terminated their cooperation due to irreconcilable differences regarding values and concepts of the Festival itself. Since then, the organization of the monthly screenings and the Festival itself was led by Organization Q, and its four core members – Svetlana Djurkovic, Alma Selimovic, Emina Trumic

and Slobodanka Dekic. SOC led the work in regard to Queer Theory Collection of Works publication.

The core QSF team was supported by eleven volunteers who gathered in Sarajevo few days before the Festival's opening. Volunteers came from Sarajevo, Mostar, Tuzla, Vukovar and Borovo (Croatia). Majority of them were participants of Organization Q's Seminars organized last year for members of LGBTIQ population from Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region.

Public promotion of the QSF began in April 2008, with monthly 'Queer Screenings' that featured films and organized discussions. The main aim of these screenings was to publicly announce the Festival through media appearances and announcements, but also to present the main concept of the first Queer Sarajevo Festival through selected films. More information at: <http://www.queer.ba/udruzenjeq/en/qsFEN.htm>

Four films were presented from April to June 2008:

- April – screening of *Dangerous Living: Coming Out in the Developing World*, FIS Club Bock, Sarajevo (40 guests) – discussion guests Darko Brkan, activist from Sarajevo, Marko Jurcic, gay activist from Zagreb; also shown was a short film *Gay?* (in cooperation with Human Rights Film Festival, CIPS, Sarajevo)
- May – screening of *Paragraph 175*, British Council, Sarajevo, (40 guests) – discussion guests Dzenana Trbic, OSI, Sarajevo, and Srdjan Dizdarevic, Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo;
- June – screenings of *Before Stonewall* and *After Stonewall*, commemorating June 28th, Pride Day, FIS Club Bock, Sarajevo (10 guests).



Being unable to raise funds for monthly screenings, as opposed to cancelling the activities, the whole activity was financed by Organization Q, through Heart and Hand Fund, fees collected at queer parties and individual contributions from core organizers.

As part of the promotional activities, in September 2008, Press Conference was organized in Mostar as well as screenings of two films: Lilies and We are Dad.

PROGRAM

In that period the organizational team was intensively working on the development of the Festival's program and its public presentation. In its final form, QSF was envisioned as multimedia five-day event, created with the intention to disrupt, redefine, transgress, fulfill and affirm sex, gender, sexual orientation, sexual and

gender identities, gender expression and all other concepts the meaning of which is assumed and accepted as absolute truth. The Festival wanted to challenge and question heteronormative and patriarchal values, particularly those centered on the issues of identity, sexuality and human rights. It was created as an open and safe space based on principles of self-definition, self-identification, individuality and freedom of choice, aiming to make visible the link between different aspects of violence and discrimination, and the potential and need of the queer movement.

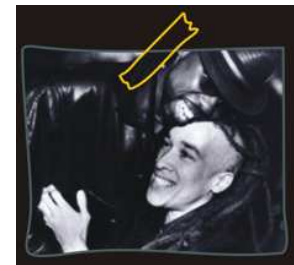
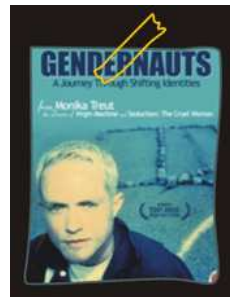
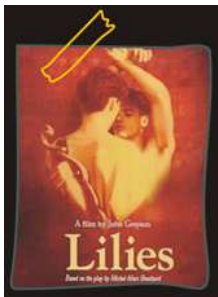
The audience was invited to see, hear and participate in the life stories of lesbians, gays, trans, intersex and queer persons, full of tears, laughter, hope, love, friendship, struggle, fears, victories and pride.

Final program agenda included movies, performances, round tables and exhibitions.

Film Program

Program of the QSF was finalized by the end of June 2008. In collaboration with Andrejs Visockis, Riga, Latvia, our film selector who is also a gay activist in Latvia as well as Director of Latvia's queer film festival, we finalized the film program.

Film program included eight (8) documentary films and one feature film. *Lilies*, by John Greyson (Canada, 1996) was to be presented as the Festival's 'special film program', with the director himself present. The premiere of the film was to be followed by a discussion on film and gay activism, including John Greyson and movie professionals from BH. Among six documentaries, four of them are dedicated to transgender and transexual issues – *Gendernauts* (USA, 1999); *Venus Boyz* (Switzerland, Germany and USA, 2002), *Between the Lines: India's Third Gender* (Germany, 2006) and *Red without Blue* (USA, 2007). These films were scheduled to be shown as a 'film marathon', initiating a discussion on body and politics of body during the third day of the Festival. Another two documentaries raise the problem of gay parenthood and children born with HIV (*We Are Dad*, USA, 2005) and forming and development of lesbian movement and culture in Switzerland (*Katzenball*, 2005). Copyrights for all films were gained and all films were translated and subtitled.



Performances

Four performances which were selected and scheduled included: Lili Handel by Ivo Dimchev, the Netherlands, Viva la Diva by Milan Djuric, Belgrade, Serbia, and Lobotom vs. Penis by Huso Orucevic, Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Ivo Dimchev is a well known performer and artist from Bulgaria, working in the Netherlands, whose performance 'Lili Handel' deals with the questions of body on the stage - how it is perceived, reduced to fun and profit, but in the same time uplifted against the time.

Viva la Diva, the first drag queen performer from Serbia, features two political monologues discussing queer politics and reexamining heteronormativity.

Huso Orucevic, activist from OKC Abrasevic, Mostar, features performance 'Lobotom VS Penis'.



Exhibitions

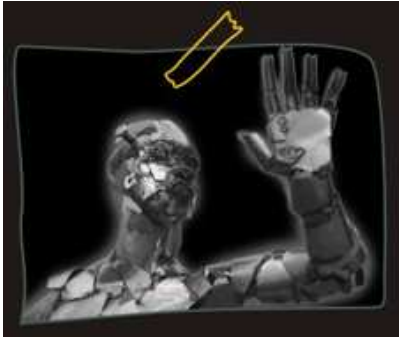
Three art exhibitions produced in the period from January – July, 2008, were to open the Festival in the Gallery of the Academy of Fine Arts. Two exhibits were commissioned by the Organization Q, while Okreni Oqueer! is a result of a public Call for Contributions.

Sculptures 'Metal', work by young Sarajevo artists Alma Selimovic, symbolize playing with and deconstructing the usual, typical and standardized, and also assumed concepts of 'male' and 'female'. The aspiration of the artist was to free the statues from social concepts and norms, but not necessarily to create someone else's identity.

Twenty photo portraits of BiH citizens from Mostar, Sarajevo, Banja Luka, Tuzla, with different identities - lesbians, gays, fags, trans, FtM, queer-friendly, heterosexual, and other persons, was created with the assistance of Irfan Redzovic, young photographer from BiH. The portraits presented their own public coming out, followed by a personal message about what coming out means to them. The idea for this exhibition was inspired by the compilation of works about sexuality Na-strani, published by Organization Q in 2006.

The third exhibition presented 30 art works that were selected and gathered through Call for Contribution announced at the beginning of 2008. CfC invited young, not yet affirmed artists from the region to send in their works in different areas - prose, poetry, applied, visual, video, and theater arts. Thirty selected ones had different art forms - photography, painting, posters, poems, stories, video work and performances. The CfC was supported by Dino Mustafić (MESS, Sarajevo, BiH), Dunja Blažević

(CZSU, Sarajevo, BiH), Alma Suljević (artist, Sarajevo, BiH) and Zoe Gudović (queer feminist, Žene na delu/ Queer Beograd, Belgrade, Serbia).

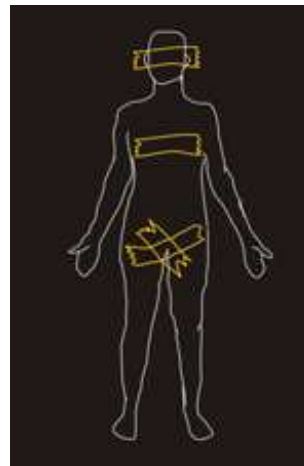


Round Tables

Two round tables and discussions were prepared to open up two important issues in regard to LGBTIQ activism and queer theory.

The first round table - 'History and modern tendencies of LGBT movement in ex-Yu region' – was to present veterans and initiators of the first LG organizations in the region, but also organizations and initiatives that emerged in the past few years – Queer Festivals, Pride Parades organizational boards, trans supporting groups, etc.

The second round table revolved around question of body and body politics, as understood outside of the 'normal' heteronormative and patriarchal concept of 'male' and 'female'. This discussion was to be followed by the following films - *Gendernauts*; *Venus Boyz*; *Red without Blue*; and *Between the lines: India's Third Gender*.



LOCATIONS

Locations for the program have been identified long time before. Locations included: Academy of Scene Arts, Gallery at the Academy of Fine Arts, CDA Theatre, and Kino Bosna. However, due to threats that organizations were receiving regarding venues. Kino Bosna backed out of our agreement. This placed us in a very difficult position as we were constantly rejected by other potential organizations/institutions for venue space. Final list of locations was secured one week before the QSF opening and it included: Gallery at the Academy of Fine Arts, Academy of Scene Arts, CDA Theatre, Kino Meeting Point and Media Center.

SECURITY

Initially, security was included based on the estimate of having no major incidents, but having security agents on all locations in order to stop it if there turn to be any. Eagle Security Agency was hired for this task as we have had a year long experience with them hiring them to secure our monthly parties.

After media provocations were publicly launched and threats started to come in, it was decided that security will have to be seriously stepped up. QSF was announced to PU Center as all of our locations were placed within Centar municipality. However, after experiencing venue agreement termination and difficulties in obtaining new ones within the same municipality, PU Novo Sarajevo and Sarajevo Cantonal MUP were also informed and joint meeting was scheduled (Media Centar).

In cooperation with Sarajevo Cantonal MUP, PU Centar, PU Novo Sarajevo and Eagle Security Agency, a couple of joint meetings were organized. At the same time, Organization Q was filing reports with PU Centar and PU Novo Sarajevo and investigation regarding hacking of www.queer.ba/forum was initiated.

Given that QSF was classified as an open event of high risk, we informed the police that leading streets from main locations to public transportation should also be secured because of the possibility of group attacks at participants coming to or leaving QSF venues. Police insisted that Eagle Agency security guards all be located within venue space demanding a very high number of them at each location (25 at ALU, 20 at ASU). Before each activity, Police would organize a KDZ (searching the venue for explosives), and two hours prior to scheduled events at each location would transfer the space to Eagle Agency official and the Organization Q representative. QSF team produced invitations and special accreditations (for guests, media, volunteers and organizers), and lists of guest in order to ease security within each location.

Costs for security increased by 200% due to newly devised plans. Eagle Agency created highly classified security plans which were forwarded to the Police and the Organization Q. Organization Q started fundraising additional funds in order to cover the ever growing costs of QSF security, something we managed to do before the QSF opening. However, due to high costs, we decided to close the exhibit earlier, having it open for 3 as opposed to 5 days.

Eagle Security Agency experienced problems within their security network. Security agencies cooperate among each other, relaying on each other in terms of guards and locations. In the case of QSF, there was no such cooperation as other agencies decided not to provide any assistance to Eagle in regard to QSF. Security of QSF

initially included the following: Press Conference in Mostar, film screenings in Mostar, Press Conference in Sarajevo, setting up exhibit space in ALU on the 23rd, and QSF daily and evening activities from September 24-28. In the end, Eagle Agency covered the following: Press Conference in Mostar, film screenings in Mostar, Press Conference in Sarajevo, setting up exhibit space in ALU on the 23rd, QSF opening on September 24th, QSF activities in Media Center on September 25th, moving the exhibit from ALU to co-organizer's apartment, personal security watch in front of the Q's office and another location given that the Organization Q is formally registered under a different address (personal address of a co-organizer).

PR STRATEGY

PR strategy was developed to include: promotional materials (g-cards, program cards, QSF program, posters, and 4 billboards), monthly film screenings, Press Conferences (in Mostar and Sarajevo), creation of the Festival's official web page at www.queer.ba/qsf.htm, and establishing the cooperation with the media sponsors.

Promo materials were distributed from mid August in Sarajevo, Tuzla, Mostar and Banja Luka.

Festival's web page was created (www.queer.ba/qsf.htm) with the basic info about the Festival, program, donors, promo video and radio jingle. It also included segment with reportage and interviews with public persons and LGBT activists.

Press Conferences were organized in Mostar on September 4th in OKC Abrašević and in Sarajevo on September 21st in Media Center.

Public promotion included screening of the two Festival's films – *We are Dad* and *Lilies* in OKC Abrasevic in Mostar on September 6th.

The Festival was also supported and presented through our media sponsors – BH Dani, EFM Radio, Radio Sarajevo and BH Radio 1.



DONORS, SPONSORS, and FRIENDS

Organization Q and SOC applied to Federal Ministry of Culture and Sport as well as Canton Sarajevo Ministry of Culture and Sport for support. We never received any kind of response regarding our application.

Initial donors of the first Queer Sarajevo Festival included: Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands, Swiss Embassy, Canadian Embassy, Offstream Switzerland, and Heart and Hand Fund. Due to security issues, three weeks before the QSF opening, our security costs increased by 200%. At that point, more donors joined in supporting the QSF - Global Fund for Women, Urgent Action Fund, Astraea Lesbian Fund for Justice, and COC Netherlands. Total list of donors included nine (9) donors.

Media sponsors of the QSF are: Dani – weekly magazine, Efm radio – Sarajevo, BH radio 1, and Radio Sarajevo.

Friends of the Festival are: MESS Theatre Festival; Queer Zagreb; Queer Belgrade Collective; Labrys Kirgizstan; OKC Abrasevic; John Greyson and Michel Horvat.

QSF UNREVELING ITSELF

July

QSF organizing team became aware of Ramadan and the fact that QSF will fall within the last quarter of the fasting holiday. This knowledge implied certain downplaying of the PR campaign but also awareness that although there might be wrong interpretations, month of Ramadan is supposed to be the most peaceful month in the year. We had no intentions of provoking and it was impossible to foresee what was to come.

August 15th

- Four QSF billboards were placed in the center of Sarajevo – two in the area of Marin Dvor, one in the Skenderija area and one close to the National Theatre. They were taken down in early September.

August 22nd

- **SAFF** – a weekly pro-islamic newspaper published a story on its cover page, featuring the image of QSF poster. The title read – *Dangerous playing with religious feelings of Bosniaks – Festival of Homosexuals during Holy Ramadan*



August 28th

- *Dnevni Avaz* – a daily paper published a story in its front page titled – *BH public against Queer Festival in Sarajevo – Provocative Gay Event during Ramadan!*



- Contract lease was terminated between Organization Q and landlord
- Contract lease was terminated between two QSF co-organizers and their landlord
- Media frenzy begins as we are begin to be contacted continuously to give interviews by local and international media (both positive and negative)
- Naša stranka published Press Release opposing violence and in support of QSF (this was the very first Press Release published)
- *DANI* published a very positive article, one which also included opinions of public figures in BiH, bordering on hate speech

August 29th

- Security plan with Eagle Agency has to be stepped up as the event internally starts to be classified as a high risk event.

September 1st

- Press conference and film screenings are announced in Mostar regarding Mostar activities

September 2nd

- Official meeting took place between the Organization Q and Damir Arnaut, legal expert from the Cabinet of the Presidency of BiH.
- Other meetings were scheduled with the US Embassy, Swiss Embassy, LOT team, European Commission, etc.
- Organization Q published its press release regarding violence directed toward QSF as well as articles published by *Dnevni Avaz* and *SAFF*
- Kino Bosna cancelled venue for QSF
- Posters "Death to Faggots" and "We Shall Not Allow Gay Festival" were found all over Sarajevo (around taxi stands and on trolley stations) starting on September 2nd and on.



September 4th

- QSF Press Conference in OKC Abrašević, Mostar
- "Death to faggots" posters reported to PU Novo Sarajevo
- "We shall not allow gay festival" posters reported to PU Centar

September 6th

- Public film screenings of *Lilies* and *We are Dad* in OKC Abrašević, Mostar

September 8th

- Organization Q announced QSF to PU Centar, asking for adequate protection
- Official letters sent to governmental institutions, including the city Mayor, Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees, Council of Europe, European Commission, Federal Ministry of Culture and Sport, Cantonal Ministry of Culture and Sport, Agency for Gender Equality, Gender Center RS, Gender Center FBiH, Amnesty International, OSCE, Cabinet of Presidency (all three presidents)

September 10th

- Threats reported to PU Centar (phone calls, internet and forum pages)
- Meeting with LOT team from EUPM

September 11

- Threats reported to PU Centar (email, Facebook)
- Formal request was sent to Federal MUP regarding rental of Dom Policije for QSF. We have never received a response from them regarding this issues although we followed-up with phone calls and emails.

September 17th

- Official meeting with Semiha Borovac, Mayor of Sarajevo
- Official meeting with Police (PU Centar and Sarajevo Cantonal MUP), Eagle Agency and Organization Q

September 18th

- Organization Q announced the QSF to Cantonal Ministry of Internal Affairs (copy to PU Centar), asking for adequate protection

September 19th

- Venues secured for QSF (new venues include Media Centar and Kino Meeting Point)

September 21st

- Hacking attempts of www.queer.ba/forum reported to PU Centar along with results of Q's investigation regarding the hacking and the person behind it

September 22nd

- QSF Press Conference held in Media Center

September 23rd

- Report to PU Centar misuse of our mailing lists and theft of identity and sending threatening messages to listserv members of the Organization Q
- Addendum to Q's announcement to PU Centar – table of locations and program, copy of accreditations and invitations (the latter was compromised and this was made known to the police)
- Anti-QSF posters were placed all over city during the night (including the initiation of a web site: www.zdravodrustvo.org)
- Setting up of exhibit area for the opening night

September 24th

- Report filed to PU Centar protests which were organized on the day of the opening of the QSF, posters which were placed all over Sarajevo on the night of 23rd of September (including the license plate of the vehicle), and a threat which included use of 9mm gun
- Opening of QSF at ALU
- Haris Cupina, Adi Selimovic, Sabina Delic and Ismira Nukica, all volunteers of QSF attacked twice as they were leaving ALU with a taxi. Two persons were physically hurt at a gun point.
- Andrejs Visockis, Rasid Krupalija, Tomislava Banic, and a friend were attacked around Skenderija by a group of four younger individuals
- Pedja Kojevic and Emir Imamovic were attacked close to ALU

September 25th

- Haris Cupina, Adi Selimovic and Sabina Delic, all volunteers of QSF, (in presence of QSF organizers) filed a report at PU Novo Sarajevo after being followed and physically attacked in a taxi after leaving the QSF - Academy of Fine Arts
- Andrejs Visockis, QSF film selector (in presence of QSF organizers), Rasid Krupalija, and Tomislava Banic filed a report at PU Centar after being physically attacked after leaving the QSF - Academy of Fine Arts
- Meeting held with the Cantonal, PU Centar and PU Novo Sarajevo Police
- Press Conference held in Media Center
- Group discussion/meeting held in Media Center
- Evacuation of exhibit installations from ALU

September 26th

- In person report filed of a threatening SMS to PU Centar
- Srdjan Dizdarevic, President of Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in BiH, received a threat that he and his family will not live through the 27th night of Ramadan
- Queer forum was hacked removing all channels of communication with LGBTIQ population
- Anti-QSF video made public on Youtube with threatening content
- Informing the PU Centar about continuation of the QSF on Sept. 27th and 28th, and reporting threatening video on youtube.
- All day planning and organizing with Police regarding ASU for September 27th and 28th
- Phone call with false representation of governmental agency in which a personal address of one co-organizers was obtained by the caller
- One protester from September 24th found waiting in a car in front of Q office
- IT specialist informed us about our phone being tapped which switched all communication to mobile phones
- Informing the PU Centar about cancelling QSF
- Reported by phone a vehicle (including the type and license plate of the vehicle) which followed the vehicle of the Organization Q at the time of its occurrence
- Eagle started securing the premise of the Q's office

September 27th

- Slobodanka Dekic filed a report with PU Centar
- Emina Trumic filed a report with PU Centar
- Alma Selimovic filed a report with PU Centar
- Svetlana Durkovic filed a report with PU Centar

September 28th

- Reporting to PU Centar threatening email message
- Organization Q moved its office to co-organizer's apartment

September 30th

- Reporting to PU Centar hacking of www.queer.ba/forum
- Meeting held at the Swedish Embassy regarding QSF. This meeting was organized with the support of Swedish Helsinki Committee and Embassy of Sweden. The meeting gathered representatives of different embassies (Denmark, Sweden, France, Netherlands), international organizations in BH (Council of Europe, OSCE, European Commission), media (Senad Pecanin and Belma Becirbasic from DANI, Emir Imamovic, Radio Sarajevo and EFM Student

radio) and NGO's (One World, Center for Non Violent Action, CURE, Association of the citizens, Helsinki Committee for Human Rights BH and OSI).

- Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe condemned the discrimination and violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and the recent attacks against organisers and participants of the Sarajevo Queer Festival and journalists; and has called upon the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to condemn discrimination and violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people as well as others who are promoting their rights and ensure their protection; and promptly and thoroughly investigate any attacks against them and bring those responsible to justice.¹

October 3rd

- Reporting to PU Centar threatening SMS messages to Q members; threats in regard to organization of peace protests; email message received before the QSF opening and in relation to www.zdravodrustvo.org
- Organization Q issued its press release

October 10th

- Federal MUP visited QSF organizers in order obtain materials from Q for their investigation of internet and mail threats

October 23rd

- European Parliament of European Union expressed its concern about the climate of intolerance against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people with regard, in particular, to the incidents that took place at the opening of the first Queer Festival in Sarajevo on 24 September 2008 and urged the BiH and local authorities to adopt the necessary measures to ensure that the fundamental right of peaceful assembly is fully guaranteed also to LGBT people in BiH (European Parliament resolution of 23 October 2008 on the conclusion of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and Bosnia and Herzegovina, of the other part)

October 29th

- A meeting was held at the Cantonal MUP primarily due to concerns expressed by Amnesty International to the Cantonal MUP BiH. Representative of Organization Q and Helsinki Committee for Human Rights was present.

Few days before the beginning of the Festival's public campaign, sad violent incident occurred, involving hard physical violence against two gay men, from Sarajevo and Zagreb. Both of them were thrown out from the night club because they were kissing. They were chased by a group of men who were present in the club around the city center. While one of them managed to escape and call the police, the other was captured in the park and badly beaten up by five of them. Police took the statements from both of them, and although they were given the names and nick names of the

¹ Resolution 1626 (2008) - Honouring of obligations and commitments by Bosnia and Herzegovina, <http://assembly.coe.int/Main.asp?link=/Documents/AdoptedText/ta08/ERES1626.htm>

attackers, the victims have not received any feedback information regarding this. Although not connected directly with the Festival, this attack clearly shows that violence against LGBT persons, homophobia and xenophobia in BH society exist regardless of the Festival or the time when it is held.

Public visibility and transparency that has always existed in the Organization's Q work, this time has driven negative attention and it was used by certain media, political, religious and institutional structures in their intention to promote hate speech, homophobia, xenophobia and nationalism. Due to the violence that was surrounding the Festival before, during and after its official opening, its cultural program was reduced to the opening exhibitions and one round table with altered agenda. Hate speech in the media one month before the Festival resulted in the fact that Organization Q had to vacate its office, as two team members had to vacate their rented apartment; Kino Bosna terminated the agreement about space rent for QSF - after unsuccessful attempt to get location for two days of Festival's program in Dom mladih, Dom policije, Forum, Kino Apolo, Club Sloga, and UNITIC, British Council, organizational team finally managed to transfer the program in Mediacenter Sarajevo and Cinema Meeting Point; other venues had second thoughts; security costs increased from 4500 KM to 12000 KM which we fundraised in less than three days; internet and SMS threats, threatening letters, e mails and web forums continued.

Just three days after the QSF billboards were posted, *SAFF* – right fundamental Islamic weekly magazine, published the poster on its front page with the following headline - **'Festival of homosexuals during the holy month of Ramadan! Who is provoking Bosniaks' religious feeling?'** The main text contained disinformation, derogatory and hate speech toward the LGBT population, as well as some of Festival's media sponsors (BH Dani). This was the first media text that initiated the whole chain of hate speech against the Festival and its organizers.

Avalanche of hate – the period before the Festival (3 weeks)

One week after *SAFF* published its article, *Dnevi Avaz*, the most popular daily newspaper in Bosnia and Herzegovina, published another text on its front page – 'Gay Festival in the month of Ramadan?', containing disinformation about the Festival, presenting it as Pride Parade and provocation for the Muslim believers. It also contained several statements given by high representatives of the political parties in BH (SDA, SNSD), Sarajevo mayor Semiha Borovac, and representatives of different religion organizations. Most of them were expressing their dissatisfaction with the organization of the QSF during Ramadan, thus publicly showing complete ignorance and prejudice toward LGBT population, describing them as 'ill', "immoral", and in the need for medical assistance.

Although QSF received great media attention during this period, most of the media were solely focused on one issue – Queer Festival during the Ramadan. Though a great deal of them was very positive and supporting, the Festival's artistic and cultural aspect and program itself remained completely invisible to the public. Therefore, issue about the QSF soon became the issue about the (in) existence of human rights, freedom of expression and secularity in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Institutions and political party's representatives

Statements given by most of the politicians and representatives of state and religious institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina proved that there is no basic understanding of the human rights concept among them. Most of them were expressing complete

Internet threats

Inspired and supported by media lynch provoked primarily by *Dnevni Avaz* and public statements of political and institutional representatives, the group named 'Say NO to the Queer Festival' was formed on the Facebook web page. Numerous other electronic forum discussions ensued on Islam Bosna. While most forum members who wrote on different forums remained anonymous, on Facebook's protest groups, members who were from Bosnia and Herzegovina presented themselves with full name, surname and the picture. They all called for violence against the organizers of the Festival and gay persons in general – some of them were even advocating for finishing 'the job' that Hitler, Karadzic and Mladic have not finished. In a very open manner they have discussed the ways they should organize in order to stop the Festival, and 'kill all the faggots' so that nothing similar can ever again happen in Sarajevo again.

Apart from Face Book group, another internet forum that expressed extremely violent treats toward the Festival's organizers was 'Islam Bosnia' forum, founded by one fraction of the vehaby movement. One of the members of the Islam Bosna forum, person using the username 'Gazi Pedere' ('Stomp the Faggots'), attempted hacking our web forum at www.queer.ba/forum a few days before the opening of the QSF. This person also abused our mailing lists by hacking some members' email accounts and receiving correspondence and subsequently posting hate speech messages by assuming other members' email addresses masks. These messages were sent in dozens conveying the message that all gays and lesbians should be killed and beaten up, and expelled from Bosnia. One of the messages sent to the membership mailing list contained warning that no one should show up at the opening of the Festival because he or she will be killed. Also, the messages posted by this person contained threats and warnings to Svetlana Djurkovic, Organization Q President.

Most of this internet communication about the Festival contained extremely violent threats and hate speech toward the LGBT population, potential visitors of the Festival, Festival's organizers and Svetlana Djurkovic. She was under constant threat of being killed, raped, and was publicly called 'disgrace for Bosnia'. Her private address, which is also official address of the Organization Q, was publicly announced on several web forums. All these threats were reported to the Police prior to the official opening of the Festival. Investigation yielded location and identification of a person using the nick 'GaziPedere' and Interpol was informed given that this person is located in Germany.

Threatening letters and phone calls to the Festival's organizers and supporters

Prior to September 24th, we started receiving phone calls from people who issued warning to us. One such person presented himself as a 'citizen of Sarajevo', asking for the exact time and location of the opening ceremony (at that point the time schedule and the locations were not finalized yet) with the warning at the end of conversation '*Prepare yourself*'.

On 18th of September one threatening letter was sent to the media sponsors of the Festival (BH Dani, Radio Sarajevo and EFM Student Radio), signed by 'Anger of the Sarajevo War Veterans'. The letter condemned their support to the 'western sickness' saying that due to that, they will not have peace and that their homes and working places will 'disappear in dust and ash, as well as themselves'. Osman Arslanagic, director of CDA/SARTR theatre also received threatening calls and SMS messages.

Posters around the city

The first round of anti-festival were found 3rd of September around different city areas, trolley and tram stations, and taxi stands. One kind of them contained the message 'Kill the Faggots', while the other one was 'Say No to the Gay Festival'. Most of them have been removed by the end of the same day by the cleaning city service. Few of them have been taken by organizational team and Festival supporters. The posters have been reported to the Police on the following day.

On the night before the opening of the Festival another round of posters has been distributed around the city in much greater number. These posters were wordier and were professionally designed and printed. The message was focused on presenting homosexuality as disease and threat to the healthy society, and universal moral values. Homosexuals were also presented as 'ill', 'perverted', 'criminals' and 'pre-destined' murderers. We reported to the Police the license plate of a vehicle which participated in the distribution of these posters as seen and witnessed late at night on September 23rd. On the same day a web page was installed at www.zdravodrustvo.org with same messages.

Direct consequences of these events were following:

- Organization Q was expelled from the office apartment after the first text in *Avaz* daily paper was published;
- Two co-organizers were expelled from their apartment after the first text in *Avaz* daily paper was published;
- Kino Bosna, venue for the Festival was cancelled one week prior to the opening of the QSF without any explanation.
- Several locations/organizations that we contacted as possible venue replacement were not willing to assist us (Dom mladih, Sloga, UNITIC, British Council, Dom policije), by either not answering our calls or explaining their decision with not so convincing sudden activities. Academy of Fine and Scene Arts, CDA Theatre and Media Center at the end, were locations willing to provide us support.

Organizational team also had numerous meetings in this period regarding the situation, but most of these were with international organizations and embassies (Council of Europe, USA Embassy, Netherlands Embassy, Swiss Embassy, Embassy of the French Republic, and Embassy of Sweden). From the local institutional representatives we had meeting with Damir Arnaut, Advisor for constitutional rights in the cabinet of Dr. Haris Silajdzic; and Semiha Borovac, Sarajevo mayor. During our meeting with city mayor, she was assuring us that she personally talked with the police, guaranteeing that no violence will be allowed at the QSF. No one else from the local institutions replied on our call for meeting due to the situation.

First meetings with the Police regarded reporting of the threats and regarding the security of the Festival. Private security agency Eagle was hired for the whole period of the Festival, but due to threats the security measures were stepped up. QSF was classified as the 'high risk' event and cooperation was initiated among the Organization Q, Eagle security agency and Cantonal Police (including Police from the Center and Novo Sarajevo Municipalities).

Queer Sarajevo Festival – the opening evening

On the day the Festival's opening, 24th of September, anti-festival protests were scheduled at 5 PM in the center of Sarajevo. The night before Sarajevo was plastered with posters from Zdravo Drustvo and invitation to come to the 'peaceful' protests and call against expression of 'these deviant ideas', by walking from the gathering place to the Academy of Fine Arts. Very few persons showed up.

Half an hour before the opening, the Gallery space was open up for media, hosting the mini Press Conference. Until 8 PM, when officially opening took place, the Galley entrance was swelled with 300 – 400 hundred persons waiting to enter. Along side was the group of approximately 50-70 protesters. Together with them, about 30-50 adolescents attempted to reach the entrance to the Academy but once they were stopped by the Police 20 of them showed up on the opposite side of the river, shouting 'Kill the faggot' and 'you will be beaten up'. Again, Police intervened. The group in front of the Academy was not stopped by the Police as they made it all the way to the entrance. At that point, they verbally provoked guests to the Festival, verbally insulting them, pushing them around, and spitting on them. Only after an incident happened, the Police pushed the protesters away from the entrance.

The opening ceremony was attended by approximately 350 visitors – friends of the Festival, guests, supporters, members of other NGO's, international organizations, Embassies, and some political parties. Soon after the opening speeches, people started to leave the Academy. At 8:45 PM first physical attacks at visitors started to happen. Due to our agreement with Police, private security agency Eagle could not leave the Academy premise; therefore the protection of the guests outside of the building was solely responsibility of the Police forces.

Between 8:45 PM and 11 PM, minimum of nine persons were injured – six of them have reported the attack to the police, while two of them were not willing to do so.

Among these six are:

- Andrejs Visockis, Latvia/Danish citizen, T.A. and R.K. from Sarajevo – in the group of four, they left the Academy and headed toward the parking near Skenderija Bridge (near the Academy). They were followed by a group of four and suddenly attacked from the back. R.K. was hit once, but managed to run away and hide underneath the car. T.A. was hit and thrown on the ground, while Andrejs Visockis was thrown on the ground from the back, and heavily beaten up. He was endured injuries on his face, head, wrists, and stomach. He was transferred to the emergency room at the Clinical University Center in Sarajevo, where he had an eye surgery due to the damage inflicted to his head, face and eye. Fourth person from their group managed to escape immediately, trying to find the police – the first officer she saw was almost one mile away, standing alone.
- A.S., H.C., S.D. and I.N., all four volunteers of the Festival, left the Academy around 10.30 PM. They entered a taxi attempting to leave the Academy area. The minute they entered the taxi, a group attacked them, hitting the car, opening passenger doors and hitting them with their legs. Taxi driver managed to get away, driving them to the Hrasno area, dozens of miles away from the Academy. Upon arriving, the same group attacked the taxi again. The taxi driver was told at a gun point to move away from the car. H.C. was hit in the head with a gun, causing the rupture of his nose. A.S. was hit with a gun in the back of his head, while trying to protect two other volunteers, one of whom is

- under age. A.S. and H.C. sought medical attention in the emergency room. Both of them and S.D. filed reports at the Police station in Novo Sarajevo.
- Pedja Kojovic, journalist, and Emir Imamovic, publicist and journalist, both from Sarajevo were attacked close to the Academy, at the Cobanija Bridge. They were attacked by group of adolescents. Pedja was thrown on the ground and beaten up, and Emir was attacked while trying to help him. Police officers who were trying to stop them were also attacked. In the follow-up of the QSF, Prosecutors Office of the Canton Sarajevo has pressed charges against two attackers, age 18 and 19.
 - Two more persons were attacked in front of the Academy. One as hit in the head after verbal discussion with the group of protesters in front of the Academy; the other one was bitten up near the National Theatre, for assuming that he is a 'faggot', again by a group of adolescents.

A lot of details about these attacks (photographs, statements, etc.) have been evidenced and published by the media. Also, many of the persons that were standing in front of the Academy, verbally insulting, provoking and attacking the Festival's visitors, were members of the Face Book group 'Say NO to the Queer Festival' and 'Islam Bosnia' internet forum, where they have been discussing who-did-what in front of the Academy under full name and surname, on the following days.





Queer Sarajevo festival – Day 2

The next day, instead of having planned program activities, organizational team held a Press Conference in Media Center, Sarajevo, briefing the media and the public about last night events and announcing that the Festival will be closed to the public and that it is no longer about arts and culture but rather a political event as it was politically attacked.

The only activity that was organized during the day was a workshop/discussion with LGBT activists from the region and other guests of the Festival, discussing events that occurred last night.

A meeting was held with the Police officers at the PU Center and representatives from the Eagle Agency. Security measures were discussed for the upcoming days of the Festival. All activities that were scheduled for Friday, 26th of September were cancelled because of the 27th night of Ramadan (special wholly night during the holy month) and anticipated violence and in order to plan the last two days of the Festival.

From artistic to the political event

Instead of having round table discussion on history and modern tendencies of LGBTIQ movement in ex-Yugoslavia, organizational team and activists-guests organized the dialogue among the Festival's guests, participants and guests activists about the violence experienced last night, but also different tactics that LGBTIQ groups and activists have to use in order to overcome fear and homophobia that they have experienced so many times before. Organizational team believed that it was necessary to create a space for this kind of discussion after the shock that Festival's guests have experienced at the opening night and due to the necessity to channel that unpleasant experience. Eight activists from the region were present on this panel – Hela Liveric, Sanja Kajinic, Franko Dota, Marko Jurcic from Zagreb Pride organization; Lepa Mladjenovic and Tatjana Greif, veterans of the lesbian movement in Serbia and Slovenia; Milan Djuric, Zoe Gudovic and Kristijan Randjelovic from Queer Belgrade Collective and Gayten Transgender Support Group.

Queer Sarajevo Festival – Day 3

Few incidents occurred during September 26th. Our forum was hacked, by default of which action a hate speech message was sent to each of the 2000 members of the queer.ba forum. A video clip was posted on YouTube by the same person who hacked our forum and mailing lists. The video clip showed the silhouette from our promotional material and a knife which cuts off silhouette's head. The second image was the silhouette with Svetlana Djurkovic's head (with black blocks covering her face) and the knife which again cuts off silhouette's head. Messages which followed are: 'we will kill you all'; 'police hates you'; 'Svetlana you are disgrace for Bosnia, watch out, we will rip your guts', etc. The clip was removed from the web page on the very same day. However, we saved the clip and have reported it to the Police. The threats and hate speech used in the direction of all organizers started having a nationalistic/ethnic character, where two organizers were called "chetniks" and were told to go back to Belgrade, Serbia, where they came from, based on what was assumed to be their ethnic/national identity solely based on their names.

Around 4:20 PM one of the organizers, Slobodanka Dekic, received a phone call on the cell phone of Organization Q. The caller introduced himself as Asmir Kebic, the High Inspector from the Department of Foreigners, asking Slobodanka for her address where she is registered in BiH given that she is a citizen of Serbia. Slobodanka gave them the address where she is registered which is a personal address of another organizer. A few minutes later we received a call from the Alumni Center for Interdisciplinary Studies secretary Monja Suta Hibert, who confirmed that they too were called by the same person asking for Slobodanka's contact information and place of stay.

Around 8 PM, three organizers drove to the airport to pick up one of the Festival's performers. On the way to the airport, an unidentified car started to follow the vehicle of the Organization Q. The car along with the license plate was reported to the Police and a special unit waited for the organizers at the airport and escorted them back to town.

Due to all these incidents and the crescendoing atmosphere, the organizational team cancelled the rest of the Festival program which by that point included two-day activities resulting in total of 6 hours due to security issues.

AFTER SEPTEMBER 28TH

On Monday, 29th of September a meeting was organized with the support of Swedish Helsinki Committee and Embassy of Sweden. The meeting gathered representatives of different embassies (Denmark, Sweden, France, Netherlands), international organizations in BH (Council of Europe, OSCE, European Commission), media (Senad Pecanin and Belma Becirbasic from DANI, Emir Imamovic, Radio Sarajevo and EFM Student radio) and NGO's (One World, Center for Non Violent Action, CURE, Association of the citizens, Helsinki Committee for Human Rights BH and OSI).

Weekend after the Festival a protest was held, initiated by a group of citizens, and against the violence that occurred during the Festival. Approximately hundred persons gathered on the protest that did not had any strong measures of security. There were no incidents.

We had a meeting at the Cantonal MUP on October 29th, primarily due to concerns expressed by Amnesty International to the Cantonal MUP BiH. Representative of Organization Q and Helsinki Committee for Human Rights was present.

Prosecutors office of Cantonal MUP has raised two indictments against Edin Džafo and Amar Talovic. More indictments are foreseen to come.

On international level, following resolutions and recommendations pertaining to BiH, were adopted:

Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe debated on 30 September 2008, and adopted a Resolution 1626 (2008) on Honouring of obligations and commitments by Bosnia and Herzegovina. Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe condemned the discrimination and violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and the recent attacks against organisers and participants of the Sarajevo Queer Festival and journalists; and has called upon the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to condemn discrimination and violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people as well as others who are promoting their rights and ensure their protection; and promptly and thoroughly investigate any attacks against them and bring those responsible to justice.

On October 23rd, the European Parliament of the European Union, expressed its concern about the climate of intolerance against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people with regard, in particular, to the incidents that took place at the opening of the first Queer Festival in Sarajevo on 24 September 2008 and urges the BiH and local authorities to adopt the necessary measures to ensure that the fundamental right of peaceful assembly is fully guaranteed also to LGBT people in BiH.²

² European Parliament resolution of 23 October 2008 on the conclusion of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and Bosnia and Herzegovina, of the other part, <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P6-TA-2008-0522+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN>

Documentation of the Festival

The preparation of the Festival, opening activities and night as well as events that have occurred before and during the Festival have been documented by press and video clipping including most of the TV, radio and press reports made about the Festival. Also, statements given by politicians and institution's representatives were transcribed and translated into English language.

Video documentary is also being made, including interviews with members of organizational team, Festival's guests and victims of violence at the opening ceremony. The documentary is being filmed by Cazim Dervisevic (XY Films) and Masa Hilsicin.

Future activities of the Queer Sarajevo Festival

Short term objectives of the Festival were:

- To initiate a public queer event that will become a traditional manifestation of visibility of LGBTIQ population in Bosnia and Herzegovina – although the first Festival was interrupted, the final message of the organizers was that since the Festival was not ended as planned, it is still going on. The violence and threats will not stop organizational team to work on organization of the next Festival;
- To present regional achievements and tendencies in queer movement, theory and culture – the program contained important issues regarding regional queer movement – exhibition of young queer artists from the region ('Okreni oqueer!'); round table presenting history and modern tendencies of LGBT movement in the region, followed by four short documentaries presenting regional queer initiatives; one performance from Viva la Diva, regional drag star. Apart from this, the Festival gained lots of support from the regional queer groups and activists, as well as other civic organizations;
- To establish sustainable cooperation between Queer Sarajevo Festival and mainstream cultural institutions and organizations in Bosnia and Herzegovina – this short term objective was partially gained. Having in mind the circumstances in which the Festival was organized, several cultural institutions did give us direct and full support – Academy of Fine Arts unquestionably stood by our side, never bringing into question their assistance; CDA Theatre also, in spite of the threats that Director Osmanagic was receiving before the Festival; Academy of Scene Arts and Mediacenter agreed to provide its space to the Festival's program even after the opening night. Unfortunately, some cultural manifestations and institutions did not react to the lynch that was organized against one cultural manifestation – Sarajevo Film Festival (whose program will be shifted in 2009 due to the Ramadan month); Federal and Cantonal ministries of culture and sport; some public cultural spaces refused to support and help the Festival, such as Dom Mladih, Kino Bosna, Kino Apolo, Dom Policije, UNITIC. These are public institutions, and therefore it is outrageous that their decision was against all human rights principles that this country is based on.
- To initiate public discussion about the position of queer population in Bosnia and Herzegovina, LGBTIQ culture, identity and human rights through activities before and during the Festival and its PR strategy – this may also be considered as fulfilled objective, though not through the means as planned. Discrimination, homo/bi/trans phobia and xenophobia, marginalization, became visible through outrageous violence and hate speech toward LGBTIQ population that was expressed before and during the Festival.

Long term objectives of the Festival were:

- To make issues concerning LGBTIQ population and its human rights visible, accessible, and recognizable in the BiH society through the forms of artistic and non-violent presentation – the issue of the position of the LGBTIQ population in BH became visible through the Festival, but unfortunately not through the artistic forms and non violent presentation. Nevertheless, these events pointed out to some of the most acute problems of BH society, and Organization Q will continue to work on them – via Festival also.
- To contribute to the long term process of deconstruction of the existing prejudices, stereotypes and taboos and decreasing of discrimination and violence against LGBTIQ population in the public space, through illuminating issues concerning LGBTIQ population by using different artistic forms – although the pressure and negative attitudes were very loud in the general public, a circle is formed and a network of supporters among citizens, activists, media and other human rights organizations. All of them recognized that the violence targeted against LGBTIQ people and the Festival is violence and hate targeted against all 'other' who ever 'other' might be. Struggle for the Festival to happen, became struggle for freedom of speech and rights to be respected in a secular and democratic state.

Cooperation and plans for the future

As it was already stated, the Festival never ended. Since its numerous audience and supporters did not manage to see the whole program, Organization Q is preparing the 'QSF Box' that will contain films, performances and other materials that were meant to be presented at the Festival (copyright permitting). We have already gained copy rights for all three performances and film *Lilies*. We are in the process of negotiating the copyrights for other films.

The Festival program will also be presented publicly in parts – we will organize public movie screenings and presentation of the opening exhibitions. Performance 'Lobotom VS Penis' by Huso Orucevic will be played on monthly basis until the next QSF. Documentary of the Festival will be presented at the Berlinare Teddy Awards Program in January 2009, as well as the Festival itself. The documentary will also be presented in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Numerous organizations, cultural Festivals and queer festivals have expressed their support to the Festival's continuation.

The forum on our web page was started again, gathering now more then 70 members. It is very important to us to use this opportunity to build the community again. Digital story telling activities are planned for January in order to document personal activities regarding QSF and to bring some closure to people who experienced violence.

Web page of the Organization Q will also be re-designed and refreshed with new material. Also, the events that occurred around the Festival emerged the need for re-structuring of Organization Q and intensive work on its structure, membership and internal organization.

Parallel with this process we will continue working on the preparation of the next Queer Sarajevo Festival.

In addition, legal team in cooperation with OSI, Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in BiH and Swedish Helsinki Committee for Human Rights will be formed in order to address all violations, criminal offenses and abuses surrounding the Queer Sarajevo

Festival. We are interested in raising the visibility of human rights abuses as witnessed during QSF activities in order to work on improving human rights issues of LGBTIQ population in BiH and globally as well (Antidiscrimination Law in BiH and on the levels of CoE, UN, and EU).

Notes:

1. Statements of support can be found at www.queer.ba
2. QSF dossier can be found at Radio Sarajevo at: http://www.radiosarajevo.ba/#modt_h=action%3Anews%2Ckategorija%3A22&modr_h=action%3Anews%2Ckategorija%3A22&modm_h=action%3Anews%2Ckategorija%3A22%2Cid%3A9615&modl_h=action%3Anews%2Cid%3A9615
3. QSF video clip can be seen at: <http://www.queer.ba/dzinglovi.htm>
4. Official web page of QSF is at: <http://www.queer.ba/qsf.htm>

Annex 1

1ST QUEER SARAJEVO FESTIVAL - PROGRAM

Sept. 24, 2008 Wednesday	Sept. 25, 2008 Thursday	Sept. 26, 2008 Friday	Sept. 27, 2008 Saturday	Sept. 28, 2008 Sunday
			All day thinking and free flow about ... BODY AND POLITICS OF BODY	
	1-2:30 PM Mediacentar Round-table and film screening: LGBT movement in post-YU region (activists from post-YU region)		1-2:40 PM, Scena ASU Documentary film: Venus Boyz (Switzerland, 2001)	1:30 -3:00 PM, Scena ASU Documentary film: Gendernauts (USA, 1999)
	2:30-4 PM Mediacentar Regional films - ZG/ BG/ LJ Pride parades; First Queer Belgrade; Bura in Ljubljana (prime showing!) Discussion and gathering!!!	5-6:45 PM Cinema Meeting Point Special film program: Short film, John Greyson Lilies, John Greyson, (Canada, 1996)	3:30 -4:15 PM, Scena ASU Documentary film: India's Third Gender (Germany, 2005)	3:30 - 5 PM, Scena ASU Documentary film: KatzenBall (Switzerland, 2005)
8-10 PM, Gallery ALU - OPENING OF THE FESTIVALA & COCTAIL-	6-7 PM Mediacentar Documentary film: We are Dad (USA, 2005)	7-8 PM Cinema Meeting Point Discussion- Film and LGBTIQ human rights with our guests: John Greyson (Canada), Andrejs Visockis (Latvia)	4:30-5:30 PM, Scena ASU Discussion and gathering!!!	5:30 -6:45 PM, Scena ASU Documentary film: Red Without Blue (USA, 2007)
8 PM, Gallery ALU Photo exhibit - Portraits 'Na strani' Organization Q, Irfan Redžović (BiH) Sculpture exhibit Metal Organization Q, Alma Selimović (BiH) Presentation of art works: Okreni Oqueer! Queer works from ex-YU region				
(exhibits will stay open on 25th and 26th from 12-6 PM)	9 PM Mediacentar Performances: Never Stop Fighting (Martina, Pero, and Meri, Croatia) Lobotom VS Penis (Husein Oručević and LOGOS, BiH)		9 PM, Scena ASU Performances: Bad Education (Biljana Kosmogina, Serbia) I will survive & You can Queer Your Life (Viva la Diva, Serbia)	9 PM, Theatre CDA-SARTR Performance: Lili Handel (Ivo Dimchev, the Netherlands) CLOSING OF THE FESTIVAL

Annex 2
Press clipping

Please see attached.

Annex 3

TV stories regarding the Festival

Please see attached.

Annex 4

Copy of the letter sent to the Festival's media sponsors

(ne)Poštovana gospodo!

Vama koji podržavate najveće zlo modernog doba, koji promoviranje nemoralna smatrate testom tolerancije u našoj napačenoj državi, koji širite i štitate „zapadnjački otrov“ opisujući ga kao multikulturnu ekspanziju, vama koji mislite da je jedini način ulaska Bosne i Hercegovine u Evropsku Uniju, onaj „od straga“.

Ratni veterani Sarajeva vam poručuju DOSTA.

Već dugo vremena zaradujete svoj hljeb na nesreći drugih, onih koji to nisu, ni u kojem slučaju, zaslužili. Onih koji su vaše jadne i primitivne živote spašavali od četničke kame dok ste se vi „borili“ s olovkom u ruci ili provodili po evropskim prijestolnicama. Nažalost, jedino što ste naučili iz svega toga jeste, kako će te omalovažavati i ponižavati najzaslužnije za opstanak bosanjskog naroda, i kako rezultat njihovog zalaganja bacati u bescijenje.

Naravno, podržavajući „Queer Sarajevo Festival“ otišli ste predaleko i time prelići čašu naše tolerancije. Umjesto da takav način izražavanja osudite i slijedite put onih kod kojih je demokracija uzorit model života, vi ovaj naš ratom iscrpljeni narod, trujete zapadnjačkim bolesnim idejama i nazovi „ljudskim pravima i slobodama“.

Hvala vam na vašoj pomoći, vašim idejama, deklaracijama o slobodi i jednakosti ljudi, ali nama to ne treba. Mi dobro znamo kako smo stekli slobodu i pravo na život, a vi ste to zaboravili. Ne trebaju nama prava i slobode za najniži oblik života što ova zemlja izbacila, da bi se osjećali evropski. Ne treba nama jednakost sa homoseksualcima, biseksualcima i transeksualcima da bi se osjećali više ljudski. Mi se tako osjećamo kada oni ne postoje i nisu u našoj blizini.

Od ovog vremena, u kojem ste sami sebi presudili, pa u beskraju budućnosti, nećete biti miši. Ni kada izlazite na ulicu, ni u povratku kući. Neće biti sigurne ni vaše kuće ni vaši poslovni objekti. Sve će nestati u prahu i pepelu u koji će te se, na kraju, i vi pretvoriti.

Svi odgovaraju za svoja djela, pa tako će te i vi, nepoštovana gospodo, zbog podrške ovim gnusnim oblicima života iskusiti gnjev od kojeg se nećete moći sakriti.

Gnjev ratnih veterana Sarajeva

Annex 5

DVD with the threatening video clip

Please see attached.

Annex 6

Complaints and reports filed by the Organization Q

Organization Q filed total of approximately 19 complaints and reports, before, during and after the Queer Sarajevo Festival. In addition, four organizers filed personal criminal reports on September 27th.

1. Sept. 4th, 2008 – “Death to faggots” posters reported to PU Novo Sarajevo
2. Sept. 4th, 2008 - “We shall not allow gay festival” posters reported to PU Centar
3. Sept. 8th, 2008 – Organization Q announced the QSF to PU Centar, asking for adequate protection
4. Sept. 10th, 2008 – Reporting threats to PU Centar (phone calls, internet and forum pages)
5. Sept. 11th, 2008 – Reporting threats to PU Centar (email, Facebook)
6. Sept. 18th, 2008 - Organization Q announced the QSF to Cantonal Ministry of Internal Affairs (copy to PU Centar), asking for adequate protection
7. Sept. 21st, 2008 – Reporting to PU Centar hacking attempts of www.queer.ba/forum and results of Q’s investigation regarding the hacking and the person behind it
8. Sept. 23rd, 2008 – Reporting to PU Centar misuse of our mailing lists and theft of identity and sending threatening messages to listserv members of the Organization Q
9. Sept. 23rd, 2008 – Addendum to Q’s announcement to PU Centar – table of locations and program, copy of accreditations and invitations (the latter was compromised and this was made known to the police)
10. Sept. 24th, 2008 – Reporting to PU Centar protests which were organized on the day of the opening of the QSF, posters which were placed all over Sarajevo on the night of 23rd of September (including the license plate of the vehicle), and a threat which included use of 9mm gun
11. Sept. 25th, 2008 – Haris Cupina, Adi Selimovic and Sabina Delic, all volunteers of QSF, (in presence of QSF organizers) filed a report at PU Novo Sarajevo after being followed and physically attacked in a taxi after leaving the QSF - Academy of Fine Arts
12. Sept. 25th, 2008 – Andrejs Visockis, QSF film selector (in presence of QSF organizers), Rasid Krupalija, and Tomislava Banic filed a report at PU Centar after being physically attacked after leaving the QSF - Academy of Fine Arts
13. Sept. 26th, 2008 – In person reporting of a threatening SMS to PU Centar
14. Sept. 26th, 2008 – Informing the PU Centar about continuation of the QSF on Sept. 27th and 28th, and reporting threatening video on youtube.
15. Sept. 26th, 2008 – Informing the PU Centar about cancelling QSF
16. Sept. 26th, 2008 – Reported by phone a vehicle (including the type and license plate of the vehicle) which followed the vehicle of the Organization Q at the time of its occurrence
17. Sept. 27th, 2008 – Slobodanka Dekic filed a report with PU Centar
18. Sept. 27th, 2008 – Emina Trumic filed a report with PU Centar
19. Sept. 27th, 2008 – Alma Selimovic filed a report with PU Centar
20. Sept. 27th, 2008 – Svetlana Durkovic filed a report with PU Centar
21. Sept. 28th, 2008 – Reporting to PU Centar threatening email message
22. Sept. 30th, 2008 – Reporting to PU Centar hacking of www.queer.ba/forum
23. Oct. 3, 2008 – Reporting to PU Centar threatening SMS messages to Q members; threats in regard to organization of peace protests; email message received before the QSF opening and in relation to www.zdravodrustvo.org